

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

Cancel claims 1-11 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add new claims 12-24 as follows:

1 ~~12~~ (New) A system for controlling locking/unlocking means of at least one operable panel of a vehicle, comprising:

vehicle transmission/reception means (3, 4, 5) carried by the vehicle, comprising

vehicle memory means (7) comprising a vehicle circular shift register in

which is stored a pseudo-random code;

vehicle transmission means (3, 6, 7) for transmitting an interrogation

signal which carries the pseudo-random code; and

vehicle de-spreading means (6, 7, 8) for de-spreading a response signal

received unless a pseudo-random code carried by the response signal is not synchronized

in substantial correlation with a corresponding pseudo-random code stored in the vehicle

memory means (7) by a shift less than required for an intermediate transmission means to

intercept and retransmit a response signal, and for verifying whether the received signal

carries a signature of a user transmission means; and

user transmission/reception means (9, 10, 11) intended to be carried by a user for transmitting the response signal for controlling unlocking actuation of the operable panel, comprising

user memory means comprising a user circular shift register (13) in which

is stored the pseudo-random code;

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user de-spreading means (12, 13, 14) for de-spreading the transmission signal received unless the pseudo-random code carried by the interrogation signal is not synchronized in substantial correlation with the corresponding pseudo-random code stored in the user memory means (13) by a shift less than required for an intermediate transmission means to intercept and retransmit the interrogation signal; and

the user transmission means (9, 12, 13, 14) for transmitting the response signal which carries the pseudo-random code and the signature which is specific to the user transmission/reception means.

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12 (New) A system according to claim 11, wherein:  
the interrogation signal transmitted by the vehicle transmission/reception means comprises a key code; and

the response signal transmitted by the user transmission/reception means comprises a secret code determined by the user transmission/reception means as a function of the key code.

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12 (New) A system according to claim 12, wherein the vehicle transmission/reception means further comprise a mixing means for mixing the key code with the pseudo-random code carried by the interrogation signal.

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12 (New) A system according to claim 13, wherein the user transmission/reception means further comprise mixing means for mixing the secret code with the pseudo-random code carried by the response signal.

5 16 (New) A system according to claim 13, wherein at least one of the key code and the secret code comprise the pseudo-random code of the interrogation signal or the response signal.

6 17 (New) A system according to claim 12, wherein the signature consists of the pseudo-random code of the response signal.

B 7 18 (New) A system according to claim 12, wherein the system comprises means for synchronizing the vehicle memory means and the user memory means prior to transmission of the interrogation signal.

8 19 (New) A system according to claim 18, wherein:  
the pseudo-random code comprises a post-synchronization pseudo-random code;  
the user transmission/reception means transmits a pre-synchronization pseudo-random code upon activation of the user transmission/reception means; and  
the vehicle transmission/reception means comprise means for self-synchronizing with the pre-synchronization pseudo-random code transmitted by the user transmission/reception means.

9 20 (New) A system according to claim 19 wherein the pre-synchronization pseudo-random code is shorter than the post-synchronization pseudo-random code.

10 ~~20~~ (New) A system according to claim ~~20~~ wherein the post-synchronization pseudo-random code comprises 127-bit codes.

11 ~~23~~ (New) A system according to claim ~~12~~ wherein the interrogation signals and response signals comprise RF signals modulated by a two-phase NRZ modulation.

12 ~~25~~ (New) A system according to claim ~~12~~ wherein the vehicle is an automobile.

13 ~~24~~ (New) A system according to claim ~~12~~ wherein the shift comprises less than one half of a bit period with respect to the code of the user circular shift register.

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